



Volume II, 2011

# urban.

## RENAISSANCE

NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE

### The Verdict's In(n)

**The Verdict's Inn** recently opened downtown at 801 Las Vegas Blvd. South in the space that was formerly the Potato Valley Café. Las Vegas native **Jill Schneider**, together with partners **Maggie DeBernardis Cupp** and **Jo Bourgeois**, have created a new breakfast and lunch setting for area employees, residents and tourists.

The café's name and décor reflect its location in the heart of the legal district. Large black and white photos of famous courtroom movie scenes fill the walls, and a bookcase near the windows offers a wide variety of justice-themed volumes. The menu plays with the legal theme by identifying items as "guilty" or "not guilty" to help diners identify healthy options. Menu offerings include their signature chopped salad, pastries, coffee, soups, sandwiches, wraps, Sabratt's hot dogs, desserts, fresh juices and more. Catering and gourmet box lunches are also available.

The Verdict's Inn is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For menus, catering options and more information, visit [www.verdictsinn.com](http://www.verdictsinn.com).



Legal memorabilia dot one of downtown's newest restaurants, The Verdict's Inn.



Downtown's newest hotspot, simply called Bar, can be found in the 18b Arts District.

### It's Simply...Bar

**Bar+Bistro @ the Arts Factory** continues to develop with the opening of "**Bar**," the companion to "Bistro," at 107 E. Charleston Blvd, #155. Bar+Bistro is the recipient of the city of Las Vegas' first urban lounge license in the **18b Arts District**, which allows up to five gaming machines.

The Bar hosts events nearly every night of the week, including half-off drinks from 5-7 p.m. on Thursdays, Camp 107 cult classic cinema on Fridays and Painters and Poets live mic and improv jazz on Saturdays.

Bar+Bistro recently welcomed executive chef **Beni Velázquez**, whose focus stretches from Spain, Italy and France and follows the shores of Morocco, Egypt, Israel and Lebanon. Chef Beni brings new dining choices with his tapas menu available in Bar. One example is curry aioli, which is served with crispy tempura alcachofa (artichoke hearts). "You can't find that anywhere because it's a mix of Indian and French," Velázquez said. "Those flavors mix. Who knew?"

"Bar" is open Monday through Saturday, from 5 pm – 11 pm or "until we can't have any more fun," says partner, **Wes Myles**.

# Bits & Pieces

- Only one unleased space remains on the second floor of **Emergency Arts**. The facility opened its second floor expansion, offering space to an additional 19 tenants, in the late fall of 2010. Emergency Arts is located at 520 Fremont St. in the **Fremont East Entertainment District**. The facility houses 39 creative spaces, the **Burlesque Hall of Fame** and **The Beat Coffeehouse and Records**. The center's name was inspired by the former occupant, a medical clinic.
- Bingo returned to **Binion's Gambling Hall & Casino** as of Feb. 1 of this year. In addition, a **Tasti D-Lite** offering frozen desserts has a planned April open at Binion's. This shop will include a patio on Fremont Street.
- **The Smith Center for the Performing Arts**, currently under construction in downtown's **Symphony Park**, is on time and within budget. To be completed within the next 30 days: a 300-seat, two-story cabaret. The entire Smith Center, which will include a 2,000+ seat concert hall, is scheduled to be fully completed in spring 2012.
- Downtown Las Vegas' first urban market, **Resnicks Grocery Store**, offers organic items and fresh produce. The store is located on the ground-floor level of **Soho Lofts** at 900 Las Vegas Blvd. South. Downtown developer **Sam Cherry**, co-owner of Resnicks, has announced that he will soon be offering personalized tours for individuals and groups that want to know more about downtown. We'll provide additional details as they become available.



The El Cortez plays up the fact that notorious gangster "Bugsy" Siegel was one of the owners of this downtown property before famously going on to open the Flamingo Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. The El Cortez Hotel & Casino is located in downtown's Fremont East Entertainment District.



## Vegas Named As One of Top Cities To Work

Our city is on the top of folks' list for having fun, but now it's also considered a great place to work.

**CareerBliss.com** recently listed Las Vegas as one of the top 50 cities to work. Las Vegas ranked #40. For more info, visit <http://bit.ly/hUhxq7>.

## Urban Farms Produced Downtown

Downtown Las Vegas could soon be taking on a whole new look, and this time it would be a green one. Downtown developer **Sam Cherry**, co-owner of **Soho Lofts**, **Resnicks Grocery Store** and other ventures, is planning on implementing an urban gardens program. Under the program, empty lots would be filled with specially customized growing containers, adapted to produce fresh vegetables and herbs in our hot, desert environment.

Currently in the architectural design phase, plans are to make use of empty lots within the **18b Arts District** for several years until the owners are ready to sell them. Placed on the vacant lots would be specially designed shipping containers created to grow produce such as cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce. They would operate similar to hydroponic gardens, Cherry explained.

Cherry is hoping the program can begin this summer. He emphasized that the program would make currently unused areas productive, allow for a more attractive downtown and provide an opportunity to educate area school children about alternative farming.

Cherry plans to sell the produce at his urban market, Resnicks Grocery Store. If there is enough supply, he will also explore selling the products to local restaurants and farmers markets.



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